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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

460.509/3-652

FROM EXCON, AmEmbassy, Paris

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

REF :

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March 6, 1952

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SUBJECT: U.K. Views on U.S. Proposal to Add Chlorinated Rubber to International List II

In the CoCom meeting on January 29, 1952, the U.S. proposal to add chlorinated rubber to List II (Doc 513) was discussed. The Italian Delegate mentioned that the item was produced by the U.S., U.K., Germany, France, and Italy, and he suggested a large unallocated reserve if the item were agreed for List II quota control. The French Delegate agreed to add the item to List II.

The U.K. Delegate took the position, however, that the item did not warrant List II control because it has large industrial uses and there are many substitutes. He agreed that special know-how and equipment are needed to produce the item but thought that the Soviet Bloc could do so and mentioned that the Soviet Bloc had not shown any interest in obtaining the item from the U.K. He listed the main uses of chlorinated rubber from the U.K. point of view, as follows:

1. Specialized paint vehicles for chemical resistant paints.
2. Acid resistant linings in submarine battery storage compartments.
3. Linings for acide-storage tanks.
4. Anti-corrosion linings in pipes and valves.
5. Paint of structural steel in buildings subjected to corrosion fumes.
6. Paint inside walls of storage tanks.
7. Underwater corrosion resistant coverings (not critical to anti-corrosion or anti-fouling paints. Flame resistance can be imparted by other products and the U.K. does not use this item for this purpose).
8. Tracer bullets (small amounts).*

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With regard to the uses specified by the U.S. in Doc 513, the U.K. Delegate did not understand the reference to water-lubricated bearings and said that more efficient materials can be and are used for the other purposes mentioned.

The U.S. Delegate replied that the U.K. statement itself argued for List II controls, particularly in view of the numerous other corrosion-resistant items under control. He also mentioned some of the military uses for chlorinated rubber.

In response to a request, Mr. Shepherd, U.K. Delegation, furnished the following further information in a letter to Mr. Ainsworth, U.S. Delegation:

"Chlorinated rubber

You will remember that it was agreed at a recent meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee that we should discuss outside the Committee your proposal for adding chlorinated rubber to List II.

One of the objections which our technicians have put forward to your proposal was that there were a number of substitutes which performed the same function, sometimes more effectively, and you asked us to let you have further information about this. Accordingly, I enclose a note prepared by the Board of Trade which names some of the substitute materials and their uses.

I should add that in view of the large number of normal industrial uses of chlorinated rubber and of the substitutes I have referred to, it is still our view that chlorinated rubber does not deserve a place on List II."

Annex to letter:

"While chlorinated rubber is useful in bonding rubber to metal and in the manufacture of anti-corrosive and anti-fouling paints, we do not regard it as essential since there are other suitable, and in some cases, preferable, means. For bonding rubber to metal we can, and do, use a brass plating process vulcanised direct on to the metal. Where an adhesive method is essential isocyanates on cyclised rubber can be, and generally are, used for the purpose."

Acid resisting linings for battery chambers can be made with special petroleum bitumen. As far as anti-corrosive and anti-fouling paints are concerned, there are a number of varying formulations. Chlorinated diphenyl acetate copolymers can be employed and if none of these are available a quite satisfactory article can be made with the conventional paint materials."

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ACTION REQUESTED:

The Department's instructions are requested as soon as possible,
(1) explaining the use of chlorinated rubber in connection with
water-lubricated bearings, and (2) commenting on the U.K. argument
against List II controls.

Sidney B. Jacques
Sidney B. Jacques
Attache

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